United Nations A/C.4/70/8

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 October 2015

Original: English

Seventieth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 58
Questions relating to information

Letter dated 29 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to draw your attention to the facts of the persecution of journalists, which has been increasing lately in the world, especially in some European countries. In 2014-2015, we saw multiple cases of punitive measures against the mass media in Ukraine. In this period, journalists Anton Voloshin and Igor Korneliuk, cameraman Andrey Stenin and Anatoly Klyan, Italian photographer Andrea Rocchelli and his interpreter Andrey Mironov were killed. There was an assassination attempt against RT journalist Fedor Zavaleikov. Journalists from Channel One, Life News, Zvezda and NTV were illegally detained.

On 16 September 2015, the President of Ukraine authorized sanctions against some people and organizations. Among them were representatives of the mass media from the information agencies Rossiya Segodnya, Kazakhstan News and TASS, the television channels Ruptly, RT, Channel One and Rossiya 24, and the newspapers Izvestia and Rossiyskaya Gazeta. In addition the Ukrainian Parliament prohibited the accreditation of Russian media at Ukrainian State institutions.

During the period 2014-2015, on several occasions, Lithuania cut Russian television broadcasts on its territory under speculative pretexts. In Estonia, Russian journalists Marina Perekrestova and Dmitry Lanin were apprehended and, after interrogation, their personal data were made public. The authorities of the Republic of Moldova have a habit of expelling undesired journalists, such as D. Kiselev, A. Kondrashov, A. Balitskiy and A. Ameliushkin, or proclaiming them persona non grata, such as in the case of A. Gasparyan. Just several days ago, Latvia fined First Baltic Channel for the "biased" coverage of some events.

Not only do these shameful actions represent a flagrant assault against journalists themselves as human beings, but they also preclude the general public from obtaining information from different sources, thus committing a violation of international law and human rights.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 58.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

15-18896 (E) 031115

Please recycle